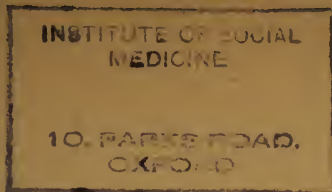


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ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY COUNCIL.
EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

Forty-first

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

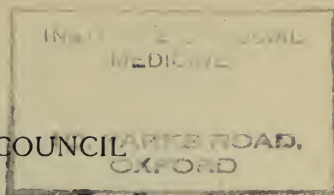
School Medical Officer

Report for the Year 1948.

BY

W. S. WALLACE, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY COUNCIL



REPORT OF
THE SCHOOL MEDICAL OFFICER
FOR THE YEAR 1948.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Education Committee of
the Isle of Wight County Council.*

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Six months is too short a time in which to ascertain what will be the ultimate effect of the National Health Service on the School Medical Service. At first it was thought that apart from the cessation of payments to hospitals and specialists in hospitals, the service would carry on as before. It soon became apparent however that there might be some doubt as to whether County Councils had any power to expend public money on services which were to be provided by Regional Hospital Boards.

Circular 179 issued by the Ministry of Education did clarify the matter to a certain extent by suggesting that Education Committees should furnish to the Regional Hospital Boards their present requirements as to clinics and consultants, and the suggested developments. This was done but so far no action has been taken by the South West Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board.

The School Medical Service however has carried on unaltered since July 5th, and it is anticipated that when the Regional Hospital Board makes contracts with its consultants and specialists that these contracts will include sessions for the Council's school clinics.

The School Medical and Dental staff since the appointment of Dr. J. S. Cameron early in 1948, has remained unchanged and I wish to place on record my appreciation of the loyalty of these officers, and also that of the ancillary staff, to the Council and to myself.

To the teachers too, for their help and co-operation, I tender my best thanks and also to the Chief Education Officer and his staff.

Finally, Ladies and Gentlemen, allow me to express my gratitude for the consideration you have continued to give to any suggestions put forward for the betterment of the School Medical Service.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

WILLIAM S. WALLACE.

County Hall,

Newport, I.W.

January, 1949.

SCHOOL MEDICAL SERVICE.

1948.

SCHOOLS AND NUMBERS ON REGISTERS.

At the end of the year the number of maintained schools was 64, viz., 54 Primary with 7,426 children on the registers, seven Secondary Modern with 2,058 children, one County Building School with 126 children and two County Secondary Grammar Schools with 675 children. The total number of children on the registers in all schools at the end of the year was therefore 10,285.

STAFF.

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| School Medical Officer ... | William S. Wallace, M.C., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. |
| Deputy School Medical Officer | John Mills, M.D., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H. |
| Assistant School Medical Officers | Charlotte Forsyth, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. |
| „ „ | Anne Simpson, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. |
| „ „ | John S. Cameron, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (Appointed 15-2-48.) |
| Dental Surgeon | Frederick Harvey, B.D.S. |
| Assistant Dental Surgeons | Gerald Simons, L.D.S. |
| „ „ | Herbert J. Nicholls, L.D.S. |
| Dental Nurse | Miss F. Willis, S.R.N. |
| Dental Attendants ... | Mrs. D. Dunn. |
| „ „ | Miss M. Ayress. |
| Physiotherapist | Miss P. Twort, M.C.S.P., M.E., L.E.T. |
| Speech Therapist ... | Miss P. W. Glover, L.C.S.T. (Resigned Oct. 1948.) |

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| School Nurses (Whole-time) | Miss D. Goodwin, S.R.N. |
| „ „ | Mrs. V. Graham-Withers, S.R.N. |
| „ „ | Miss E. Fishwick, S.R.N. (Appointed 1-12-48.) |
| „ „ (Part-time) | Eighteen District Nurses, employed by the County Council, are part-time School Nurses. |
| Chief Clerk to the Department | Miss H. Rickard. |

MILK IN SCHOOLS.

The following table shows the number of pupils taking milk on a normal school day during the week commencing 11th October, 1948 :—

| <i>Schools.</i> | <i>No. in Attendance.</i> | <i>No. taking Milk.</i> | <i>Percentage taking Milk.</i> |
|------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Primary | 6740 | 5883 | 87.2 |
| Secondary Modern ... } | 2682 | 1501 | 55.9 |
| Secondary Grammar and Technical ... } | | | |
| Total | 9422 | 7384 | 78.3 |

SCHOOL MEALS.

During 1948 developments in the School Meals Service have continued. The opening of the well-equipped modern kitchen at the new school, Northwood Park, enabled a considerable improvement in the Service in Cowes and was improved still further by the establishment of a self-contained canteen at East Cowes School, Grange Road. Gurnard Central Kitchen was thus relieved of the pressure which previously existed and the need for conveying the meals across the ferry was avoided.

In Ryde, the C.E. Junior School canteen has been closed owing to the inadequate space for cooking facilities there, and the meals are now supplied from the Play Street Lane Central Kitchen. By the end of 1949, it is hoped a new dining hut, which is to be erected on the bombed site 'pposite the C.E. School, will be completed, thus providing much needed dining room accommodation for the children attending that school.

At Shalfleet the new dining room which will avoid meals being served in classrooms is practically completed.

Another extension of the School Meals Service has been made to the Infants' Department of the Gatten and Lake School, at the Church of the Good Shepherd Hall, Lake. Dinners for these infants are supplied from Fairy Court as the meals output of the Gatten and Lake Central Kitchen is not sufficient to cover this commitment in addition to the other schools it supplies in that area.

During the year two outbreaks of gastro-enteritis attributable to school meals occurred traceable to the same school kitchen, which was overburdened. This has since been remedied. Both outbreaks were mild and were probably both due to a staphylococci toxaemia. In the first, before the School Medical Officer was notified, it was impossible to obtain samples of the food consumed but samples of excreta and vomit showed the absence of organisms of the Salmonella Group. In the second outbreak, samples of the food were obtained as also were swabs from the throats of the kitchen staff. From one of these a coagulose positive staphylococcus was isolated and a staphylococcus was also isolated from the salt beef but the growth was scanty and it was found impossible to type it.

The Service is now providing approximately one million meals per annum and fortunately complaints are few and far between.

A census of school meals taken on a normal school day during the week commencing 11th October, 1948, gave the following figures :—

| <i>Schools.</i> | <i>No. in attendance.</i> | <i>No. of meals served.</i> | <i>Percentage taking meals.</i> |
|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Primary | 6740 | 3588 | 53.2 |
| Secondary Modern ... | 2682 | 1715 | 63.1 |
| Secondary Grammar and Technical ... | | | |
| Totals | 9422 | 5303 | 56.2 |

MEDICAL INSPECTION.

Every school was visited at least twice, once in the Spring and once in the Autumn for periodic medical inspection. In all 3,143 children in the "periodic" group were inspected, 1,360 fewer than in the previous year. This fall off was anticipated and was due to the institution in 1947 of bi-annual inspections. In the Autumn of that year a certain number of children were inspected who would not have been so inspected until the Spring of 1948 had the once yearly medical inspection continued.

FINDINGS AT MEDICAL INSPECTION.

STATE OF NUTRITION.—Of the 3,143 children examined at the periodic inspections, 47.8 per cent were classed as of good nutrition, 48.8 per cent as of fair nutrition and 3.4 per cent as of poor nutrition. This shows a slight falling off from the previous year (49.4 ; 48.0 ; and 2.6). The numbers dealt with are small and one of the medical officers concerned was new so that this falling off is probably not significant. On the other hand, there is a slight suspicion that, even with school dinners (and 44 per cent of the children do not have dinner in school), the monotony of the post war diet may tend to cause a slight deterioration.

The medical officer assessing the nutritional state does not judge wholly by height and weight and the condition

of the skin and mucous membranes, but also by the impression made on him/her by the whole physical and mental make-up of the child under review. This of course will also vary with the particular mood of the examiner. In other words if the child is on the border line between good and fair, then if both he or she and the medical officer had had a good breakfast of bacon and eggs, that child would probably go in the good class, whereas if both had breakfasted on sausage meat, the child might only be classified as fair.

DEFECTS.—Table IC shows that 648 individual pupils were at periodic medical inspections found to require treatment, that is 20.6 per cent (21 per cent in 1947). This table excludes dental defects and verminous infestation.

Table II shows the defects found at periodic and special inspections. It will be seen by it, that, as usual, diseases of the nose and throat, defective vision and orthopaedic deformities account for over 60 per cent of the defects found to require treatment.

UNCLEANLINESS AND FOLLOWING UP.—The nurses carried out fully their following up work, making 1,541 visits to schools and 2,138 home visits ; the number of dressings applied in the treatment of minor ailments was 2,184 and the number of examinations for uncleanness was 29,144. This last figure includes the routine examinations carried out by the nurses as early as practicable after the beginning of each school term and also the re-examinations of children found unclean. In September, 107 children had nits in their hair out of a total of 8,836 examined, i.e., a percentage of 1.2 (1.2 per cent in 1947). The number of schools with no unclean child was 36. The percentage of children found at periodic medical inspections to have nits in the hair was 0.5. During the year the nurses themselves cleansed 109 children. Legal proceedings were not taken in any uncleanness case.

An unusual case occurred during the year relating to two school-children aged 9 and 6 years respectively.

It was unusual in that the parents of the children were religious fanatics and refused to allow the cleansing and cutting of the children's hair, which was incredibly unhygienic and insanitary. The heads in both cases were a mass of lice, nits, and matted pus, and the health of the children was being affected through lack of sleep on account of the itching and discomfort.

Both the father and mother refused permission to cut the hair stating that according to their religion a miracle would be performed without the intervention of anyone.

Under the provisions of the Education Act, 1944, Section 54, notice was served on the parents of the children ordering the thorough cleansing of the heads, and this was followed by a further notice ordering their removal to a cleansing station along with all infected bedding and clothing. This was done by ambulance in the face of strong opposition: the children were removed to a cleansing station, the hair was cut short, penicillin was injected, and in a very short space of time, the children were fit for discharge.

The parents acknowledged their gratitude to the authorities, and the children were back at school within a fortnight.

Three school children were found to be suffering from scabies at the three routine inspections carried out by the school nurses during the year.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR TREATMENT.

In Table IV, Groups 2 and 3, are shown the numbers of children treated for visual defects and enlargement of the tonsils.

Details of work done at the Eye Clinics at Newport and Ryde.

| | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----|-----|------------------|
| Number of children who attended | ... | ... | 683 |
| Number of attendances :— | | | |
| i.e. New attendances | ... | ... | 295 |
| Re-examinations | ... | ... | 388 |
| Re-examined twice during year | 243 | ... | 427 |
| | | | <hr/> 1110 <hr/> |

Number of children found to be suffering from :—

| | | | | | |
|------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Defective vision | ... | ... | ... | ... | 643 |
| Other defects | ... | ... | ... | ... | 40 |

Results of attendances :—

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|
| Spectacles prescribed (first time) | ... | ... | 196 |
| Spectacles altered | ... | ... | 27 |
| Spectacles renewed | ... | ... | 134 |
| Already had spectacles which were suitable | ... | | 171 |
| Spectacles not required | ... | ... | 135 |
| Not improved with spectacles | ... | ... | 5 |
| Spectacles repaired | ... | ... | 3 |
| Spectacles no longer necessary | ... | ... | 5 |
| Cases referred to Dr. Heckford | ... | ... | 31 |
| Attendances of children for examination under atropin | ... | ... | 403 |

ORTHOPTIC TREATMENT.—The total number of new cases referred to this clinic during the year was 27. Thirty-eight cases whose treatment was started in the previous year made further attendances and the number of children under treatment at the end of 1948 was 79 (54 at Newport and 25 at Ryde).

SPEECH CLINIC.—Miss P. W. Glover, L.C.S.T., the whole-time Speech Therapist, appointed on the 1st November, 1946, resigned on the 20th October, 1948, and has not yet been replaced.

The clinics were continued, until October, 1948, at the various centres detailed in last years' report and the following table gives details of the children seen at these clinics during the ten months :—

| | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|
| Number of sessions held | ... | ... | ... | ... | 226 |
| Number of attendances of children | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1151 |
| Number of new patients seen | ... | ... | ... | ... | 39 |
| Number of children found suitable for treatment | ... | ... | ... | ... | 27 |
| Number of patients discharged | ... | ... | ... | ... | 18 |
| Number of schools visited | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 |
| Number of children treated during the year | ... | ... | ... | ... | 83 |

HEART CLINIC.—These clinics have continued throughout the year at monthly intervals (with the exception of August) and the two senior physicians on the staff of the County Hospital, Doctors Firman-Edwards and Dockray, have been in attendance at the clinics every alternate month. During the year there were 11 clinics held and 75 attendances in all were made by school children.

CHILD GUIDANCE.—When it became apparent that the National Health Service Act was splitting the responsibility for the Mental Health Services between Local Health Authorities and Regional Hospital Boards, consideration was given to the staffing of the child guidance clinics. Responsibility for the treatment of the mentally ill belongs to the Board. Child Guidance however is a preventative service and it was considered that it should be directly under the control of the Education Committee with the School Medical Officer as Director. For the same reason it was also decided that the clinic should be in charge of a medical officer who had no responsibility for the treatment of the mentally ill. Consequently it was arranged that Dr. C. Davies Jones should continue to run the clinic as he had done in the past and he has kindly furnished the following report of the work of the clinic in 1948.

“At the 68 sessions held during the year, the numbers of children attending were as follows :—

| | | |
|----------------------------------|--------|-----------|
| Total number of cases dealt with | ... | 61 (60) |
| Number of new cases dealt with | | 42 (34) |
| Number of old cases re-opened | | 1 (2) |
| Total number of attendances | ... | 222 (275) |

With regard to the work of the Clinic, it should be borne in mind that, although the actual number of children seen has remained almost constant, the number of new children seen has considerably increased so that, for some time, it has been necessary to hold an extra session of the Clinic, namely, on Friday afternoons.

The improvement envisaged in last year's report, relating to the fact that the Clinic now comes under the Directorship of the County Medical Officer, has been amply substantiated and much closer contact with regard to the children, their parents, guardians, teachers and private doctors, has resulted. This fact alone, of course, contributes largely to the increased waiting list, for reference to the Clinic would appear to be becoming much more welcome than in past years.

No very marked change has to be reported, either in the types of children dealt with, or in the ascertained causes. A large number of referrals for bed-wetting continues to be a prominent feature and of these quite a considerable proportion have been in respect of children above the age of 10 years. With regard to these in particular, it is satisfactory to note that an improvement has been readily forthcoming as a result of treatment, and subsequent supervision shows that this satisfactory state of affairs has been maintained.

Much work still requires to be done to improve the environmental conditions surrounding the lives of many of the children dealt with at the Clinic. I often feel that, in these modern days, there is an increasing tendency to “spoon-feed” and make life unduly easy, thus undermining the initiative of the growing child. It is not the aim of

the Clinic to foster this tendency, but rather to inculcate in the children a proper sense of responsibility to themselves and to their neighbours.

It is regrettable to note, at times, a moral laxity in attitude, not only in the children themselves but in those constituting their personal environment. I sometimes wonder if a good beginning could not be made by some definite move to enlist the influence of organised bodies to tackle a situation which is so common as often to pass unnoticed, and yet which, if given a moment's thought, must surely call forth the idea that it has underlying influences of an evil character,—that is, the frequency with which, in the open streets, public places and vehicles, adults and children alike are indulging unchecked in the use of foul and obscene language. On several occasions, parents bringing children have shown considerable distress at having to admit that their own children have used words which they have quite unaccountably picked up and which are certainly not allowed to be used in the immediate neighbourhood of the home.

Finally, it should be borne in mind that as this report is primarily made with the idea of its inclusion in the School Medical Officer's Report, the numbers given at the beginning refer only to children of school age. I felt that confusion would arise if I were to include in the same tabulation the numbers of children below and above school age ; but in order to satisfy any desire to know the full scope of the work of the Clinic, these are now appended below."

Number of children above or below school age seen at the Clinic 1-1-49 to 31-12-48:—

| | <i>Under School Age.</i> | <i>Over School Age.</i> | <i>Total.</i> |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------|
| Total number of cases dealt with | 13 | 4 | 17 |
| Total number of attendances ... | 14 | 37 | 51 |
| Number of new cases dealt with | 11 | 2 | 13 |
| Number of old cases re-opened | — | 1 | 1 |

CRIPPLING DEFECTS AND ORTHOPAEDICS.—

Mr. H. H. Langston, M.B., B.S., from Alton Hospital, held ten clinic sessions during the year. The total attendances numbered 267, of which 152 were of children in your primary and secondary schools.

Physiotherapy and Exercise Clinics.

Miss P. Twort, the Council's Physiotherapist, holds exercise clinics at the following centres:—

Cowes, East Cowes, Freshwater, Newport, Ryde, Sandown, Shanklin and Ventnor.

During the year, 10,985 attendances were made by children attending these clinics.

The numbers of children suffering from orthopaedic defects who were treated in Alton Hospital during the year were as follows:—

| | Boys. | Girls. | Total. |
|--------------------------------------------|-------|--------|--------|
| In residence at Alton at beginning of 1948 | 5 | 3 | 8 |
| Admitted during the year | 6 | 2 | 8 |
| Discharged during the year | 7 | 3 | 10 |
| In residence on 31st December, 1948 | 4 | 2 | 6 |

The diseases or defects for which the eight children were admitted were as follows:—

Infantile paralysis, osteomyelitis, skin grafting after severe burns, Perthe's disease, club foot, flat foot, knock knee, and hare lip and cleft palate.

Two lads were under training at Alton College at the end of the year; one (aged 15½) has been in the College since August, 1947, and another (aged nearly 18) who had previously received treatment in Alton Hospital and Park Prewett Hospital for club foot and septic arthritis of the left hip, was admitted to College for training in April, 1948. One other lad (aged 17), suffering from spastic paraplegia, completed his training at the end of 1948 after three years' training in shoe making and repairing.

One child was in the Heritage Craft School, Chailey, throughout the year, a boy suffering from a congenital deformity of both legs. There were no other admissions or discharges.

Two children were treated in the Park Prewett Hospital during the year, one a girl (for three days) for further treatment for an injury to her face, and one, a boy (for seven weeks four days) for treatment of hare lip.

One girl was treated at the Hill End Clinic, St. Albans, Herts, for a period of four weeks six days for a fractured dislocated elbow.

TUBERCULOSIS.—Catherine Bowen Home, Longford Sanatorium.

The number of children from the County Education area dealt with during 1948 is summarised in the following table :—

| | <i>Boys.</i> | <i>Girls.</i> | <i>Total.</i> |
|---------------------------------------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| In residence on December 31st, 1947. | 4 | 1 | 5 |
| Admitted during the year | 8 | 4 | 12 |
| Discharged during the year | 12 | 5 | 17 |
| Remaining on December 31st, 1948 | — | — | — |

Of the children treated during the year, seven (four boys and three girls) suffered from non-pulmonary tuberculosis (three had abdominal disease and four suffered from glands in the neck). The remaining children were found to be non-tuberculous.

Owing to the lack of nursing staff, it was found necessary to close the Catherine Bowen Home in July last and it has not been re-opened since. Consequently, when discharged, three of the children were classed as active disease, three as non-quiescent and one as quiescent.

Other children of school age admitted to the Catherine Bowen Home included three children from the Portsmouth Education Authority.

The children treated at Alton Hospital on account of tuberculosis were as follows :—

| | <i>Boys.</i> | <i>Girls.</i> | <i>Total.</i> |
|--------------------------------------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| In Hospital on December 31st, | | | |
| 1947 | 4 | 2 | 6 |
| Admitted during the year ... — | | 1 | 1 |
| Discharged during the year ... 2 | | 1 | 3 |
| In residence on December 31st, | | | |
| 1948 | 2 | 2 | 4 |

At the beginning of 1948, there were four boys and two girls at the Lord Mayor Treloar Cripples Hospital, Alton, five of whom suffered from tuberculosis of the spine (four boys and one girl) and one girl with tuberculous glands of the neck.

One girl suffering from tuberculous arthritis of the right hip joint was admitted during the year.

There were three discharges during the year ; two boys suffering from tuberculosis of the spine were classified as quiescent on discharge after treatment lasting 2 years 9 weeks and 47½ weeks respectively and one girl was discharged after 1½ years treatment with ultra violet light followed by excision of tuberculous glands of the neck.

The boy mentioned in last year's report who was receiving treatment in the Great Ormond Street Hospital, London, for tuberculous meningitis was transferred from that hospital, after 30 weeks treatment, to the Haldene House Convalescent Home, Bexhill-on-Sea, for convalescence.

Of the four children in residence at Alton Hospital on the 31st December, three were suffering from tuberculosis of the spine and one from tuberculous arthritis of the hip.

One boy suffering from tuberculosis of the spine was admitted in November, 1948, to the Coney Hill School, Margate.

The total number of children from maintained schools treated in Island Hospitals from 1st January, 1948, until 31st December, 1948, is shown in the following table :—

| <i>Hospital.</i> | <i>In-Patient.</i> | <i>Out-Patient.</i> | <i>Total.</i> |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|---------------|
| Royal I.W. County Hospital | 426 | 432 | 858 |
| Shanklin Cottage Hospital | 45 | 33 | 78 |
| East Cowes Cottage Hospital | 35 | 6 | 41 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| Total | 506 | 471 | 977 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

NUMBER OF EXCLUSIONS NOTIFIED BY HEAD TEACHERS EACH TERM DURING 1948
ON ACCOUNT OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

| On Account of | Jan. 6th to March 24th. (12 weeks) | | April 20th to July 23rd (14 weeks) | | Sept. 1st to Dec. 21st (16 weeks) | | TOTALS. | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------|---------------------------------------|----------|--------------------------------------|----------|---------|----------|
| | Cases | Contacts | Cases | Contacts | Cases | Contacts | Cases | Contacts |
| Scarlet Fever ... | 16 | 11 | 46 | 24 | 4 | 3 | 66 | 38 |
| Diphtheria ... | 1 | — | 1 | 6 | — | — | 2 | 6 |
| Measles ... | 169 | 18 | 26 | 2 | 2 | — | 197 | 20 |
| German Measles ... | 6 | — | 30 | 3 | — | — | 36 | 3 |
| Mumps ... | 1 | — | 10 | 1 | 339 | 18 | 350 | 19 |
| Whooping Cough ... | 73 | 6 | 109 | 5 | 47 | 3 | 229 | 14 |
| Chicken Pox ... | 121 | 7 | 113 | 9 | 130 | 10 | 364 | 26 |
| Mumps and Chicken Pox ... | — | — | — | — | 13 | — | 13 | — |
| Infantile Paralysis ... | — | — | 1 | 1 | — | — | 1 | 1 |
| Influenza and Influenzal Colds ... | 3 | — | — | — | — | — | 3 | — |
| Ringworm ... | 2 | — | 6 | — | 5 | — | 13 | — |
| Scabies ... | — | — | 1 | 1 | — | — | 1 | 1 |
| Conjunctivitis ... | — | — | 4 | — | 1 | — | 5 | — |
| Totals ... | 392 | 42 | 347 | 52 | 541 | 34 | 1280 | 128 |
| | 434 | | 399 | | 575 | | 1408 | |

This table shows that 1,408 (1,233) children were excluded on account of infectious disease, 1,280 infected (1,077) and 128 contacts (156).

This shows an increase of about 150 on the previous year mainly due to the numbers of cases of mumps and whooping cough. Scarlet Fever, although showing a 50 per cent increase, was not unduly prevalent. Chicken pox showed a slight increase but the number of exclusions because of measles showed a 50 per cent drop. Only two cases of diphtheria were notified and one case of infantile paralysis. Mumps reached epidemic proportions after the summer holidays and was still prevalent at the end of the year.

DENTAL TREATMENT.—Mr. F. G. Harvey, B.D.S., submits the following report:—

During the past year no fundamental changes have taken place in the administration of the school dental scheme but the year has seen the opening of two new clinics, one incorporated in the new Cowes Secondary Modern School and the other a self contained unit adjoining Caversham House School at Ryde. The clinics were urgently needed and it only remains for a new clinic to be established in the Sandown area to place the dental service on a satisfactory basis as far as accommodation is concerned.

Three dentists were employed on school work by the Education Committee but the increasing demands on their services by other Committees and especially in view of the expected increase in work for the maternity and child welfare services following the commencement of the New Health Act, which came into operation on 5th July, it was decided to appoint an additional dental officer. Owing to a shortage of dentists throughout the country and the widespread dissatisfaction felt by school dentists regarding the future of the school dental service as a whole, no suitable applicants were forthcoming for the advertised position of full-time assistant dental officer. The

committee were, however, fortunate in obtaining the services of a local dentist to undertake work on a sessional basis dating from October.

All but one of the Island schools were visited by the dentists during the year and the pupils present were dentally examined. The children found with defects were offered treatment, either at one of the clinics or on the school premises. Now that children may obtain treatment from any private practitioner who will accept them as patients, it was thought there might be a flow of children from the school service to the private dentist, but this has not been the case. In fact, this year the acceptance rate for treatment has risen by 5.5 per cent, from 81 per cent in 1947, to 86.5 per cent in 1948. Any doubt as to the appreciation by parents and the importance of the school dental service is refuted by the above figures.

The total number of children examined was 9,022 and of these 4,984 (55.2 per cent) were referred for treatment. The number who accepted and were given treatment totalled 4,308 children. The amount of treatment given during the year will be found in the statistical table No. IV on page 29.

Conservation of the teeth in a healthy functional state has been the aim, and it can be noted with some satisfaction the low proportion (1.13 per cent) of permanent teeth which it was found necessary to extract compared to those which were saved by filling. Although priority was given to the treatment of the permanent teeth, an effort was made to save the temporary ones as far as time would permit and 1,644 fillings were inserted in temporary teeth. In addition 515 teeth were conserved by the silver nitrate reduction method.

Since the introduction last year of orthodontic treatment for those children found with irregular teeth, there has been a great demand for this type of treatment and whilst acknowledging the importance of such treatment, the time

factor had to be considered and those cases involving prolonged and extensive treatment had to be refused.

However, during the year 39 children were fitted with orthodontic appliances with very satisfactory results and the parents were very appreciative of the improved appearance of their children's teeth. In certain specific cases where the judicious extraction of a tooth would relieve the overcrowding, this course was taken and 49 permanent teeth were extracted for this reason. These extractions are included in the total number shown in the statistical table.

Under the heading "Other Operations" is included a very varied number of treatments ranging from the scaling of teeth to minor oral surgery. It is interesting to record two operations of gingivectomy for two children who presented themselves with gross hypertrophy of the gums and chronic inflammation which necessitated surgical intervention. Three children were found also with enlarged fraenums causing irregularity of the upper central incisors. This condition was rectified by excision of the fraenums.

Dentures were supplied to 11 children who had lost anterior teeth chiefly on account of accidents.

In conclusion, I would like to record my appreciation and thanks to the head teachers who have co-operated so willingly and without whose help the above results could not have been obtained.

EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN.

DEAF AND BLIND CHILDREN.—At the end of 1948, there were four deaf children in special schools, one (a boy) at the Brighton School for the Deaf and three others (two boys and one girl) at the West of England Residential School for the Deaf at Exeter. One child was still awaiting admission to a Special School at the end of the year. One deaf boy, age 8, who had been awaiting admission to a Residential School for the Deaf for some

time, was admitted on trial to the Royal West of England School for the Deaf at Exeter in September, 1948, but proved to be unsuitable for education there and was withdrawn at the end of the year.

There were four blind children in Special Schools at the end of the year (three boys and one girl). Two of the boys are at the Royal College for the Blind at Bristol, the other at the Worcester College for the Blind, Worcester and the girl at Condover Hall, Shrewsbury. One blind boy was discharged from the Brighton School after 6 years tuition there.

EDUCATIONALLY SUB-NORMAL CHILDREN.—

The three special classes for retarded children are doing excellent work and at the end of the year 30 boys and 22 girls were in attendance.

Five boys, all between the age of 10 and 11 years are awaiting admission to Special Residential Schools.

Four children (two boys and two girls), were notified during the year ended 31st December, 1948, by the Local Education Authority to the Local Health Authority under Section 57 (3) of the Education Act, 1944.

OTHER EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN.

EPILEPTICS.—There was one boy only in the Lingfield Epileptic Colony at the end of the year. The other boy referred to in last year's report, was discharged at the end of the year as he had improved in his physical condition and had been free from fits for a considerable time and it was considered advisable he should have the benefit of attendance at a normal school for his last year at school.

In addition, there are eleven children of school age, five boys and six girls, who suffer from epilepsy. Two of these (one boy and one girl) are absent from school; the others are in attendance. Three boys and four girls suffer from major epilepsy; the degree of epilepsy in the other children is only of a minor nature.

In all, at the end of the year, there were thirteen children not in attendance at school. Of these, three were awaiting admission to special schools, three were exempted from school suffering from Friedreich's Ataxia, major epilepsy and schizophrenia and seven were exempted for short periods for various causes such as acute rheumatism, asthma, etc.

TABLE I.

**MEDICAL INSPECTION OF PUPILS ATTENDING
MAINTAINED PRIMARY & SECONDARY SCHOOLS****A. PERIODIC MEDICAL INSPECTIONS.**

Number of Inspections in the prescribed Groups :—

| | |
|---------------------------------------------|------|
| Entrants | 1297 |
| Second Age Group | 1018 |
| Third Age Group | 760 |
| Total | 3075 |
| Number of other Periodic Inspections | 68 |
| Grand Total | 3143 |

B. OTHER INSPECTIONS.

| | |
|--------------------------------------|------|
| Number of Special Inspections | 1859 |
| Number of Re-inspections | 2640 |
| Total | 4499 |

C.—PUPILS FOUND TO REQUIRE TREATMENT.

*Number of Individual Pupils found at Periodic Medical
Inspection to Require Treatment (excluding Dental Diseases
and Infestation with Vermin).*

| Group. (1) | For defective vision (excluding squint). (2) | For all other con- ditions recorded in Table II A. (3) | Total Individual Pupils. (4) |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Entrants | 9 | 284 | 292 |
| Second Age Group | 55 | 193 | 233 |
| Third Age Group | 39 | 78 | 113 |
| Total (Prescribed Groups) | 103 | 555 | 638 |
| Other Periodic Inspections | 4 | 6 | 10 |
| Grand Total | 107 | 561 | 648 |

TABLE II.

A.—RETURN OF DEFECTS FOUND BY MEDICAL INSPECTION IN THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1948.

| Defect Code No. | Defect or Disease | PERIODIC INSPECTIONS | | SPECIAL INSPECTIONS | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | | No. of defects | | No. of defects | |
| | | Requir- ing treat- ment | Requir- ing to be kept under observa- tion, but not requir- ing treat- ment | Requir- ing treat- ment | Requir- ing to be kept under observa- tion, but not requir- ing treat- ment |
| | (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) | (5) |
| 4. | Skin | 20 | 9 | 105 | 8 |
| 5. | Eyes— | | | | |
| | a. Vision ... | 106 | 9 | 44 | 4 |
| | b. Squint ... | 53 | 4 | 12 | 3 |
| | c. Other ... | 4 | 4 | 68 | 7 |
| 6. | Ears— | | | | |
| | a. Hearing ... | 5 | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| | b. Otitis Media | 2 | — | 2 | — |
| | c. Other ... | 8 | — | 47 | 2 |
| 7. | Nose or Throat ... | 231 | 83 | 151 | 22 |
| 8. | Speech | 31 | 5 | 10 | 5 |
| 9. | Cervical Glands ... | 4 | 11 | 5 | 7 |
| 10. | Heart and Circulation | 9 | 13 | 5 | 2 |
| 11. | Lungs | 24 | 22 | 21 | 16 |
| 12. | Developmental— | | | | |
| | a. Hernia ... | 8 | 1 | 1 | — |
| | b. Other ... | 8 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| 13. | Orthopaedic— | | | | |
| | a. Posture ... | 22 | 1 | 7 | 1 |
| | b. Flat foot ... | 139 | 15 | 25 | 2 |
| | c. Other ... | 42 | 8 | 25 | 6 |
| 14. | Nervous system— | | | | |
| | a. Epilepsy ... | — | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| | b. Other ... | 1 | 8 | 6 | 5 |
| 15. | Psychological ... | | | | |
| | a. Development | 3 | 1 | 7 | 8 |
| | b. Stability ... | 3 | 2 | 4 | 3 |
| 16. | *Other | 22 | 45 | 133 | 54 |

*Excluding defects of malnutrition, uncleanliness and dental diseases.

TABLE II continued.

B.—CLASSIFICATION OF THE GENERAL
NUTRITION CONDITION OF PUPILS INSPECTED
DURING THE YEAR IN THE AGE GROUPS.

| Age-groups | Number of Pupils Inspected | A (Good) | | B (Fair) | | C (Poor) | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------|------|-------------|------|-------------|-----|
| | | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| Entrants ... | 1297 | 667 | 51.4 | 578 | 44.6 | 52 | 4.0 |
| Second Age-group | 1018 | 377 | 37.0 | 609 | 59.8 | 32 | 3.2 |
| Third Age-group | 760 | 404 | 53.2 | 332 | 43.7 | 24 | 3.1 |
| Other Periodic Inspections | 68 | 53 | 78.0 | 15 | 22.0 | — | — |
| TOTAL ... | 3143 | 1501 | 47.8 | 1534 | 48.8 | 108 | 3.4 |

TABLE III.
Treatment Tables.

Group I.—Minor Ailments (excluding Uncleanliness, for which see Table V).

| (a) | Number of Defects treated, or under treatment during the year. |
|----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| SKIN— | |
| Ringworm—Scalp— | |
| (i) X-Ray treatment | 2 |
| (ii) Other treatment | 8 |
| Ringworm —Body | 6 |
| Scabies | 17 |
| Impetigo | 45 |
| Other skin diseases | 58 |
| Eye disease | 138 |
| Ear defects | 22 |
| Miscellaneous | 1053 |
| Total | 1349 |

| | | |
|-----|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| (b) | Total number of attendances at Authority's minor ailments clinics | 832 |
|-----|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|

Group II.—Defective Vision and Squint (excluding Eye Disease treated as Minor Ailments—Group I).

| | | Number of Defects dealt with. | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|-------------------------------|-----------|--------|
| | | Under the Authority's Scheme. | Otherwise | Total. |
| ERRORS OF REFRACTION (including squint) | | 643 | 1 | 644 |
| Other defect or disease of the eyes (excluding those recorded in Group I) | ... | 40 | — | 40 |
| | ... | | | |
| | ... | | | |
| Total | | 683 | 1 | 684 |
| Number of Pupils for whom spectacles were | | | | |
| (a) | Prescribed | 357 | 1 | 358 |
| (b) | Obtained | 357 | 1 | 358 |

Group III.—Treatment of Defects of Nose and Throat.

| | Total number treated | | |
|------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| | Under the Authority's Scheme. | By private practitioner or Hospital apart from Authority's Scheme. | Total. |
| Received operative treatment— | | | |
| (a) for adenoids and chronic tonsillitis | 203 | — | 203 |
| (b) for other nose and throat conditions | 28 | — | 28 |
| Received other forms of treatment | — | — | — |
| Total | 231 | — | 231 |

Group IV.—Orthopaedic and Postural Defects.

| | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| (a) No. treated as in-patients in hospitals or hospital schools | 25 |
| (b) No. treated otherwise <i>e.g.</i> in clinics or out-patient departments | 654 |

Group V.—Child Guidance Treatment and Speech Therapy.

| | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| No. of pupils treated (a) under Child Guidance arrangements | 61 |
| (b) under Speech Therapy arrangements | 83 |

TABLE IV.—DENTAL INSPECTION AND TREATMENT.

(1) Number of pupils inspected by the Authority's Dental Officers.

(a) Periodic Age Groups

| Age | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | Total |
|--------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|----|----|-------|
| Number | 163 | 935 | 943 | 915 | 894 | 958 | 954 | 626 | 624 | 672 | 605 | 216 | 70 | 33 | 11 | 8619 |

(b) Specials 403

(c) TOTAL (Periodics and Specials) 9022

(2) Number found to require treatment 4984

(3) Number actually treated 4308

(4) Attendances made by pupils for treatment 6081

(5) Half-days devoted to:—

(a) Inspection ... 74½

(b) Treatment ... 1100

TOTAL ... 1174½

(7) Extractions:—

Permanent Teeth ... 325

Temporary Teeth ... 3964

TOTAL ... 4289

(8) Administration of
general anaesthetics
for extraction ... 50

(6) Fillings:—

Permanent Teeth 4347

Temporary Teeth 1644

TOTAL ... 5991

(9) Other Operations:—

Permanent Teeth ... 652

Temporary Teeth 519

TOTAL ... 1171

TABLE V.
INFESTATION WITH VERMIN.

| | | |
|-------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| (i) | Total number of examinations of children in the Schools by Schools Nurses ... | 29,144 |
| (ii) | Number of individual children found infested | 107 |
| (iii) | Number of individual pupils in respect of whom cleansing notices were issued (Section 54 (2) Education Act, 1944) | 19 |
| (iv) | Number of individual pupils in respect of whom cleansing orders were issued (Section 54 (3), Education Act, 1944) | 9 |
| (v) | Average number of visits per School made during the year by the School Nurses ... | 9.1 |